

U.S. Patent Application N . 09/926,734
Attorney Docket No. 108347-00014

REMARKS

The Advisory Action dated December 1, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. In the Advisory Action, it was stated that the status of the claims is claims 1-9 are allowed and claims 10 and 11 are rejected. By this amendment, claim 10 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1-11 are pending in this application and are submitted for consideration.

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-9 are allowed over the prior art. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the January 22, 2004 teleconference.

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Brown et al. (GB 2330471 A, "Brown"). By this amendment, claim 10 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 1. Claim 11 depends from 10. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is moot because claims 10 and 11 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of claims 10 and 11 (claims 1-9 already being allowed), and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

If this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an

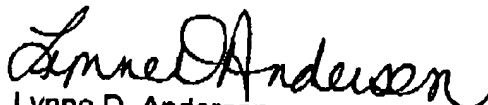
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extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper,
may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket
number 108347-00014.

Respectfully submitted,
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